

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089010

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:UNHCR, RH, VN

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF UNHCR OFFICIAL TO VIETNAM

REF: GENEVA 05060

1. APPRECIATE WORD OF DARRYL HAN'S TRAVEL TO VIETNAM.
2. AS HAN KNOWS, A PRESSING CONCERN CONTINUES TO BE THE PLIGHT OF CHILDREN AND WIVES OF U.S. CITIZENS, MANY OF THEM U.S. CITIZENS, WHO REMAIN STRANDED IN VIETNAM. THE ICRC IS TAKING THE LEAD ON THIS SUBJECT AND WAS TO MEET WITH SRV RED CROSS REPS IN GENEVA THIS WEEK. WE SUGGEST HAN DISCUSS SITUATION WITH HOCHE OF ICRC BEFORE HE DEPARTS TO SEE IF THERE IS ANYTHING HE COULD DO WHILE IN HANOI TO EXPEDITE CASES. FOR EXAMPLE, IF HE SEES SRV DIRECTOR OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS VU HUANG IN HANOI, HE COULD URGE ON A HUMANITARIAN BASIS THAT RED TAPE BE CUT TO PERMIT REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES STARTING WITH THE MOST URGENT CASES OF WIVES AND CHILDREN OF FATHERS IN THE U.S.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 089010

3. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN HAN'S OBSERVATIONS ON VIETNAM AFTER HE RETURNS, INCLUDING ANY INDICATION FROM SENIOR HANOI OFFICIALS OF THEIR READINESS TO RESUME CONTACTS ON MIA ACCOUNTING WHICH HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED AS A RESULT OF THE HUMPHREY-HUNG ESPIONAGE PROCEEDINGS. FOR HAN'S INFO, THE ACTUAL TRIAL IS NOW SCHEDULED TO START MAY 1.

4. FYI, ICRC AND HOCKE HAVE BEEN EAGER IN THE PAST TO PRE-SERVE ICRC PRIMACY IN VIETNAM-U.S. FAMILY REUNION EFFORTS, SO MISSION OFFICER SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO ICRC THAT WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF SHIFTING THE ACTION ON THIS SUBJECT TO UNHCR. OUR SUGGESTION WOULD BE FOR HAN TO CONTACT ICRC REP IN HANOI TO SEE WHAT HE COULD USEFULLY DO. FYI. VANCE

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